

Filed for intro on 03/06/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SJR0091  
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate head coach Gordon Kelly and the Christian Brothers High School varsity cheer squad on winning their sixth Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship.

WHEREAS, at the heart of any successful athletic program is an excellent cheerleading squad, one that works hard, has abundant enthusiasm and expertly encourages teachers, faculty members and fans to voice their support for the team; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding Christian Brothers varsity cheer team recently won the prestigious 1995 Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship, marking the sixth time in the last ten years that they have won that coveted title, having also received first place recognition in 1986, 1987, 1989, 1991 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, in their only other years of competing in this hard-fought competition, in 1993 and 1994 they placed second and in 1988 and 1990 they placed third in the country; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team is the only coed cheerleading squad in the country to win six national titles, is the highest ranking squad in the country, is the only team in the history of national competition to repeat as national champions twice and has also always placed nationally in the "top three"; and

WHEREAS, highlights of the 1994-1995 CBHS cheer team included:

1. Winning the Rhodes College Camp Championship;
2. Cheerleader Toby Gordon being named the Rhodes Camp Dance Champion;
3. Receiving a standing ovation at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Arkansas State, during their half-time performances;
4. Winning the big "D" Regional Championship, in Dallas, Texas, before a crowd of 3,000 at the University of Texas - Arlington;
5. Receiving standing ovations at Louisiana Tech, Arkansas State (again) and Mississippi State during their half-time performances;
6. Receiving the number one score in the Preliminary Competition held on February 19, 1995. CBHS scored an incredible 1185 points out of a possible 1200 points; and
7. CBHS hit a flawless 2.25 routine on February 19, 1995 before 6,000 screaming fans; and

WHEREAS, the team set very ambitious goals at the start of the season to win every competition they entered, to get standing ovations after each performance, to have the number one score after preliminaries and to win the 1995 National Championship and they accomplished each of these difficult goals; and

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, a total of 36 college cheerleading scholarships have been awarded to members of the CBHS cheer team. Scholarship packages were received from Mississippi State University, Delta State University, Delta State University Pom-Pon, the University of Texas, Middle Tennessee State University (2), Christian Brothers University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (6), the University of Mississippi (8), the University of Memphis (14), the University of Memphis Pom-Pon and the University of Alabama ; and

WHEREAS, since 1986, the Universal Cheerleading Association has invited a select group of CBHS cheerleaders to try out for paid positions as summer camp instructors. To qualify, candidates must be high school graduates and excel in athletic ability, leadership,

dependability and motivation. Twenty-three CBHS cheerleaders (out of twenty-five) have met these tough standards and served admirably as UCA instructors; and

WHEREAS, the group has received much attention for their efforts, including congratulatory letters from President George Bush, President Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Vice-President Al Gore, legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, country music superstar Kenny Rogers and singer James Ingram; proclamations from former Secretary of Education and Governor Lamar Alexander; being placed in the Congressional Record by Congressman (now Governor) Don Sunquist; a motivational letter and video from two-time National Championship basketball coach Mike Kryzewski; being featured on Scholastic America on ESPN and in *Sports Illustrated*; being featured twice on the Kodak All-American Girls High School basketball game, providing half-time entertainment at basketball games for the University of Memphis, the University of Mississippi, the University of Alabama, Arkansas, Vanderbilt University, Arkansas State University, Delta State University, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Rhodes College, Mississippi State University, the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and Louisiana Tech University; cheering and performing at the 1993 McDonald's High School All-American Slam Dunk/Three point Shoot-Out on ESPN; cheering at the National Football League exhibition game at Liberty Bowl Stadium in 1991 and performing at the 1993 NFL Skybox and Premium seat-selling pep rallies; and

WHEREAS, the marvelous CBHS cheer team has performed on national Japanese television five times, taught cheerleading clinics in Okaya City, Japan; performed at the Japanese National Cheerleading Championships in the fabled Tokyo Olympic Stadium three times; toured Tokyo, Okaya City and Fukuoka Japan and performed at the Fukuoka National Theme Park, where they were specially honored by the mayor and other dignitaries from the Japanese government; and

WHEREAS, head coach Gordon Kelly, who has served as the ingenious head coach of the Christian Brothers High School for ten glorious years, toured Japan, performed on national television in Japan and also performed at the National Japanese Cheerleading Championship,

during 1989, 1991 and 1992; assisted in selecting and training the “Cheer Across Britain” staff in Blackpool, England, in 1993; coached Delta State University to the Division 2 College Cheerleading National Championship, in 1992; as a valued member of the UCA Advisor Training Staff and as an informative guest speaker at the American Association for Cheerleader Coaches and Advisors National Convention, held in February, 1994, in Orlando, Florida; his collegiate career was also very impressive, he cheered for the University of Memphis for four years and was their head cheerleader for one year; helped the team win the National Collegiate Cheerleading Championship in 1983 and 1984 and fourth place honors in 1985; cheered at the NCAA Final Four in Lexington, Kentucky in 1985 and won first place at the Metro Conference Partner Stunt Championship; and

WHEREAS, their highly capable support staff includes head choreographer Van VanEaton, who has served as choreographer for the CBHS cheer team for six years, was the head cheerleader and coach at the University of Memphis and was an Opryland dancer; assistant coach/choreographer Stephanie Halter, who was the captain of a national championship CBHS cheer team, was cheerleader at the University of Memphis and was a member of a University of Memphis national champion Pom-Pon squad; assistant coach Sean Gallagher, a former member of a CBHS national champion cheer team, a former Ole Miss cheerleader and coach and UCA staff member; and sponsor and financial advisor Patty McCullough, who has served with distinction in the important post of team sponsor for nine years and for an equal period has served as travel and financial advisor; and

WHEREAS, the team members go to school at Christian Brothers High School, under the direction of Principal Chris Englert; Immaculate Conception High School, which is under the leadership of Ms. Cheri Kamler, Principal, and St. Agnes Academy, which is headed by Ms. Marian Swicker, Principal; and

WHEREAS, team members were Captain Toby Gordin, who was the Rhodes Camp Dance Champion; Captain Brian Groeschell; Captain Stephanie Schulte; Captain Christine Warren and Co-Captain Mark Cianciolo; Michael Tucker; Lacey Adair; Suzanne Free; Beth

Gilbert; Angela Koch; Aaron Mohundro; Courtney Myers; Josh Russell; Annie Sparkman; Elizabeth Sykes; Mike Willins; Emily Pohlman; K.C. Straughn; Erin Arras; Kim Brandstetter; Jessica Solon and Kristen Bringhurst; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor the nation's best and brightest; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Gordon Kelly and the Christian Brothers High School cheer team on winning their sixth Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship and their numerous other accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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